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For Immediate Release: March 25, 2002

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Kernan Announces Training Grant for Salem's Frank Miller Lumber

INDIANAPOLIS—Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that Frank Miller Lumber Co., Inc.'s Salem facility has been awarded \$18,500 from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund.

Frank Miller Lumber is a leading provider of high quality lumber that is used in a variety of products including furniture, cabinets, flooring and millwork.

The facility, located in Washington County, will use the Commerce grant to train 49 existing and 24 new employees following a \$7 million investment in a new facility and equipment. Employees will learn new skills in lumber inspection, forklift operation and quality control.

"By helping its employees update their skills, Frank Miller Lumber is ensuring its future success," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "This company has a long history in Indiana, and we're proud to support its continued growth."

Headquartered in Union City since 1903, the company has perfected a unique sawing technique and has grown steadily, selling its products throughout North America, Asia and Western Europe. Its Salem facility is part of the company's strategic plan to significantly increase production levels of its core product, red and white oak lumber, near its source.

"As part of our long-term vision, we wanted to increase production to meet market demand for the product," said Martha Miller Mathias, Frank Miller Lumber president and CEO. "We are pleased to be able to provide jobs, and we are very excited to be receiving the training grant to better equip our employees."

Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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